

[Strike the parts shown in black brackets and insert the parts shown in italic.]

H. CON. RES. 209

Whereas the United States has an enduring interest in the independence, territorial integrity, and security of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and supports their full integration in the community of democratic Euro-Atlantic states;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have taken clear and positive steps to advance their integration into Europe by establishing close cooperative relations among themselves and with their neighbors, as well as their promotion of regional cooperation;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have already contributed to European security and to the peace and security of southeast Europe through the resolution of conflicts in the region and their regional cooperation in the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial;

Whereas on May 2, 2003, the United States-Adriatic Charter was signed in Tirana, Albania, by Secretary of State Colin Powell, [Albanian Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and Macedonian Foreign Minister] Albania Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatia Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva;

Whereas the Adriatic Charter affirms the commitment of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the values and principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to joining the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas Secretary of State Powell stated that the Adriatic Charter "reaffirms our partners' dedication to work individually, with each other, and with their neighbors to build a region of strong democracies powered by free market economies . . . [i]t underscores the importance we place on their eventual full integration into NATO and other European institutions . . . [a]nd most importantly, the Charter promises to strengthen the ties that bind the peoples of the region to the United States, to one another, and to a common future within the Euro-Atlantic family"; and

Whereas [Albanian special forces troops were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 Macedonian special forces troops were sent to Iraq as part of the postwar stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia] 75 special forces troops of Albania were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 special forces troops of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were sent to Iraq as part of the postwar stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia all contributed to the stabilization forces in Afghanistan, as signs of their commitment to promote international freedom and security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress—

(1) strongly supports the United States-Adriatic Charter and commends Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for their continued efforts to become full-fledged members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union;

(2) urges NATO to invite Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to join NATO as soon as each of these countries respectively demonstrates the ability to assume the responsibilities of NATO membership through the Membership Action Plan;

(3) welcomes and supports the aspirations of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia to join the European Union at the earliest opportunity;

(4) recognizes that Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are making important strides to bring their economic, military, and political institutions into conformance with the standards of NATO and other Euro-Atlantic institutions; and

(5) commends Secretary of State Powell for his personal support of the Adriatic Charter.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.".

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments to the concurrent resolution be agreed to, that the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, that the amendments to the preamble be agreed to, and that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, that the amendment to the title be agreed to; further, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments to the concurrent resolution were agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 209), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendments to the preamble were agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the title was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

Resolved, That the resolution from the House of Representatives (H. Con. Res. 209) entitled "Concurrent resolution commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia," do pass with the following amendments:

(1)Page 3, line 4, after "and" the second time it appears insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(2)Page 3, line 8, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(3)Page 3, line 14, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(4)Page 3, line 16, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

Amend the preamble as follows:

(5)Page 1, unnumbered line 6, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(6)Page 2, unnumbered line 4, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(7)Page 2, unnumbered line 11, strike out all after "Powell," down to an including "Minister" in unnumbered line 13 and insert: *Albania Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatia Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Foreign Minister*

(8)Page 2, unnumbered line 15, after "and" the first time it appears insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(9)Page 2, unnumbered line 29, strike out all after "Whereas" over to an including "Macedonia" in unnumbered line 2 on page 3 and insert: *75 special forces troops of Albania were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 special forces troops of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were sent to Iraq as part of the post-*

war stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.".

POSTMASTER EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 235, S. 678.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 678) to amend chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, to include postmasters and postmasters organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.]

S. 678

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the "Postmaster Equity Act of 2003".]

SEC. 2. POSTMASTERS AND POSTMASTERS ORGANIZATIONS.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1004 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

[(1) in subsection (a), by inserting "postmaster," after "supervisory" both places it appears;

[(2) in subsection (b)—

[(A) in the first sentence, by inserting "postmaster," after "supervisory"; and

[(B) in the second sentence—

[(i) by striking "or that a managerial organization (other than an organization representing supervisors)" and insert "that a postmaster organization represents a substantial percentage of postmasters (as defined under subsection (j)(3)), or that a managerial organization (other than an organization representing supervisors or postmasters)"; and

[(ii) by striking "relating to supervisory" and inserting "relating to supervisory, postmasters,";

[(3) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting "and the Postal Service and the postmasters organization (or organizations)," after "supervisors' organization";

[(4) in subsection (d)—

[(A) in paragraph (1)—

[(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "and the postmasters organization (or organizations)" after "the supervisors' organization" both places it appears;

[(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "organization" and inserting "organizations"; and

[(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking "organization" and inserting "organizations";

[(B) in paragraph (2)—

[(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "and the postmasters organization (or organizations)" after "supervisors' organization"; and

[(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "organization" and inserting "organizations";

[(C) in paragraph (3)—

[(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "and the postmasters organization (or organizations)" after "supervisors' organization"; and

[(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "organization" and inserting "organizations"; and

[(D) in paragraph (4), by inserting "and the Postal Service and the postmasters organization (or organizations)";

[(5) in subsections (e)—

[(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting "and the postmasters organization (or organizations)" after "supervisors' organization";

[(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting "and the postmasters organization (or organizations)" after "The Postal Service"; and

[(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting "and the postmasters organization (or organizations)" after "supervisors' organizations";

[(6) in subsection (h)—

[(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

[(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

[(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

[(3) 'postmasters organization' means, with respect to a calendar year, any organization whose membership on June 30th of the preceding year included not less than 20 percent of all individuals employed as postmasters on that date; and

[(4) 'postmaster' means an individual who is the manager-in-charge, with or without the assistance of subordinate managers or supervisors, the operations of a post office.";

[(7) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (j), and inserting after subsection (g) the following:

[(h)(1) If, notwithstanding the mutual efforts required by subsection (e) of this section, the postmasters organization (or organizations), believes that the decision of the Postal Service is not in accordance with the provisions of this title, the organization may, within 10 days following its receipt of such decision, request the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to convene a fact-finding panel (in this subsection referred to as the 'panel') concerning such matter.

[(2) Within 15 days after receiving a request under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall provide a list of 7 individuals recognized as experts in supervisory and managerial pay policies. The postmasters organization (or organizations) and the Postal Service shall each designate 1 individual from the list to serve on the panel. If, within 10 days after the list is provided, either of the parties has not designated an individual from the list, the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall make the designation. The first 2 individuals designated from the list shall meet within 5 days and shall designate a third individual from the list. The third individual shall chair the panel. If the 2 individuals designated from the list are unable to designate a third individual within 5 days after their first meeting, the Director shall designate the third individual.

[(3)(A) The panel shall recommend standards for pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs affecting the members of the postmasters organization (or organizations) for the period covered by the collective bargaining agreement specified in subsection (e)(1) of this section. The standards shall be consistent with the policies of this title, including sections 1003(a) and 1004(a) of this title.

[(B) The panel shall, consistent with such standards, make appropriate recommenda-

tions concerning the differences between the parties on such policies, schedules, and programs.

[(4) The panel shall make its recommendation no more than 30 days after its appointment, unless the Postal Service and the postmasters organization (or organizations) agree to a longer period. The panel shall hear from the Postal Service and the postmasters organization (or organizations) in such a manner as it shall direct. The cost of the panel shall be borne equally by the Postal Service and the postmasters organization (or organizations), with the Service to be responsible for one-half the costs and the postmasters organization (or organizations) to be responsible for the remainder.

[(5) Not more than 15 days after the panel has made its recommendation, the Postal Service shall provide the postmasters organization (or organizations) its final decision on the matters covered by factfinding under this subsection. The Postal Service shall give full and fair consideration to the panel's recommendation and shall explain in writing any differences between its final decision and the panel's recommendation.

[(i) Not earlier than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and from time to time thereafter, the Postal Service or the postmasters organization (or organizations) may request, by written notice to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and to the other party, the creation of a panel to review the effectiveness of the procedures and the other provisions of this section and the provisions of section 1003 of this title. The panel shall be designated in accordance with the procedure established in subsection (h)(2) of this section. The panel shall make recommendations to Congress for changes in this title as it finds appropriate."

[(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

[(1) SECTION HEADING.—The section heading for section 1004 of title 39, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

["§ 1004. Supervisory, postmaster, and other managerial organizations".

[(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1004 and inserting the following:

["1004. Supervisory, postmaster, and other managerial organizations."]

[SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

["The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.]"

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Postmasters Equity Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. POSTMASTERS AND POSTMASTERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) **PERCENTAGE REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENT.**—The second sentence of section 1004(b) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "that an organization (other than an organization representing supervisors) represents at least 20 percent of postmasters," after "majority of supervisors."; and

(2) by striking "supervisors" and inserting "supervisors or postmasters".

(b) **CONSULTATION AND OTHER RIGHTS.**—Section 1004 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

["(h)(1) In order to ensure that postmasters and postmasters' organizations are afforded the same rights under this section as are afforded to supervisors and the supervisors' organization,

subsections (c) through (g) shall be applied with respect to postmasters and postmasters' organizations—

“(A) by substituting ‘postmasters’ organization’ for ‘supervisors’ organization’ each place it appears; and

“(B) if 2 or more postmasters’ organizations exist, by treating such organizations as if they constituted a single organization, in accordance with such arrangements as such organizations shall mutually agree to.

“(2) If 2 or more postmasters’ organizations exist, such organizations shall, in the case of any factfinding panel convened at the request of such organizations (in accordance with paragraph (1)(B)), be jointly and severally liable for the cost of such panel, apart from the portion to be borne by the Postal Service (as determined under subsection (f)(4)).”.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—Subsection (i) of section 1004 of title 39, United States Code (as so redesignated by subsection (b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) ‘postmaster’ means an individual who is the manager in charge of the operations of a post office, with or without the assistance of subordinate managers or supervisors;

“(4) ‘postmasters’ organization’ means an organization recognized by the Postal Service under subsection (b) as representing at least 20 percent of postmasters; and

“(5) ‘members of the postmasters’ organization’ shall be considered to mean employees of the Postal Service who are recognized under an agreement—

“(A) between the Postal Service and the postmasters’ organization as represented by the organization; or

“(B) in the circumstance described in subsection (h)(1)(B), between the Postal Service and the postmasters’ organizations (acting in concert) as represented by either or any of the postmasters’ organizations involved.”.

(d) **THRIFT ADVISORY COUNCIL NOT TO BE AFFECTED.**—For purposes of section 8473(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code—

(1) each of the 2 or more organizations referred to in section 1004(h)(1)(B) of title 39, United States Code (as amended by subsection (b)) shall be treated as a separate organization; and

(2) any determination of the number of individuals represented by each of those respective organizations shall be made in a manner consistent with the purposes of this subsection.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this section shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 678), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES TO REPORT LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment,